

SENECA MEDIA, INC.

Genesee Country Express

113 Main St. • Dansville, New York

Daniel E. Alexander
General managerFrederick W. Kurtz III
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Managing editorEditor's Mailbox *Our Readers Speak Out*

Editor, The EXPRESS.

At the time of the major fire on Spruce Street last Monday night, once again the Dansville Fire Department, along with those of the nearby communities, has proven to be an outstanding group of dedicated volunteers. Not only did they work quickly and efficiently to control the fire under the most adverse weather conditions, they also made every effort to insure that our homes were kept out of danger.

As the men fought the fire, one fireman was assigned the job of standing amidst the shower of burning embers in the driveway to insure that our property was kept safe and water was sprayed on the more exposed parts of our homes to prevent damage.

We were evacuated to the Town Hall as soon as it appeared that there might be danger to us. This too was accomplished in an orderly and polite manner. Just a look at the charcoal littering the area shows how close we might have been to a major disaster.

Volunteer firemen: We commend you for your profes-

sionalism, your caring and your understanding.

Al and Marilyn Mahl
Julia, Joe and Betsy Campo

Editor, The EXPRESS.

I am currently a student at Alfred State College. Often, I come home for the weekend and go back to school on Sunday afternoon. As I return to Alfred, I always pass exit four on Route 390 south, which connects to Route 36 in Dansville.

As I drive by, at least one car speeds off the exit on the Route 36 without stopping or slowing for traffic. The car must, within a few seconds, get into the main stream of traffic as the merge lane ends within a few feet. Luckily, I have good brakes on my car and have always managed to slow enough to avoid an accident. Hopefully this luck will hold out for me and others through the upcoming winter and slippery driving conditions.

If the current yield sign was changed to a stop sign, the traffic coming off exit four would be for-

ced to slow and stop before entering the traffic lane. This change must not be put off until a fatal accident occurs. The yield sign needs to be changed to a stop sign immediately to prevent any possible future mishaps.

Vicky Kreiley

Editor, The EXPRESS.

In regard to the "lights" that adorned Seward Street on Christmas Eve last month, we in Zephyrhills, Fla., also enjoy this unique lovely display.

Our mobile home parks make these "luminaries" and Country Aire Village Park is one.

Christmas 1978 was the first time we'd seen them—at Blue Jay Mobile Home in Dade City, Fla., where we camped for the winter. Paper bags were used then and now gallon plastic jugs are used with a small door cut out for air.

It pleases me to know that my home town of Dansville now enjoys these. Best wishes to all and a Happy New Year.

Edna M. Stone
Zephyrhills, Fla.

Canaseraga News—

BY MRS. TREVA GATES
PHONE 545-6440

Mrs. Clara Higgins, Mrs. Bess Shay and Lee Ellis were Sunday callers of Mrs. Ruth Wheeler at the Hornell Nursing Home.

Miss Carla Carlyn has returned from visiting friends in Dublin, Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Phillips and son have returned to Florida after visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Phillips.

Mrs. Fae Thompson has been spending several days with her daughter, Norma, in Bath.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wray and children were Thursday afternoon callers of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nichols.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Chapman were Monday afternoon callers of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Coombs were Sunday evening callers of Mrs. Florence Coombs.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hoffman and family were New Year's callers of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gregorius.

Jennifer Hoffman was a Thursday overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wray.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Coats and family, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Forshee and family and Francis Stephens were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Forshee of Florida have been spending the holidays with their family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gregorius have returned from a trip to

England.

Mrs. Clara Higgins and Lee Ellis were Sunday callers of Mrs. Bess Shay.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stephens and Paul were New Year's guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nichols.

Mrs. Rita Vandermeulen has returned home after spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Vandermeulen at Christmas.

Gerry Schultz of Titusville, Fla., was a Monday overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Phillips.

Duane Glover and Bernie Hoffman were Friday callers of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wray.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerard McHugh of Rochester spent the weekend with Mrs. Ruth LaMonte.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wray were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. James Barros. Misty returned home after spending some time with her grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Simpson and boys were New Year's callers of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gregorius.

Maranda Norton has been spending a week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Norton.

Mrs. Grace Richards, Bess Berge and Michael of Henrietta were recent callers of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Fuller and family were Friday callers of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wray.

Miss Mitzi Norton returned to her teaching duties at Barrington, R.I., after spending the holidays

with her family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton and Geoff.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Forshee visited Mrs. Bess Shay Tuesday.

Mrs. Bill Norton was a Saturday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Loney and children.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wray and Misty visited Mrs. Lois Fuller Sunday and helped her celebrate her birthday.

Connie Cornell of Puerto Rico and her mother, Esther Cornell of Jasper, were recent callers of Mrs. Ruth LaMonte.

Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Gates have returned from a two-week vacation trip from visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Ames and family at Zephyrhills, Fla. While there, they called on Mrs. Ernestine Luce, Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Dresser, Mrs. Thompson of Canisteo, Mr. and Mrs. Al (Dora Fuller) Sargent. Olaf also had a chat with Vere Coombs on the phone.

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Nichols were guests of honor at a surprise 25th anniversary party in their home, Friday, Jan. 1. It was attended by 50 relatives and friends. Among the guests were their son, Eddie and fiancée from Jamestown, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Gates and Katie and Bradley were recent visitors of Mrs. Nathalie Gates and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Freitag at LeRoy.

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Old Photo Album



VOLUNTEERS — In 1846, village officials authorized the formation of a fire fighting organization — Engine Company No. 1. The trustees voted to raise, by tax, the sum of \$800 for equipment. In 1925, when Dansville Presbyterian Church marked its centennial, a group of men appeared in pageantry ("The Procession of the Years") as Engine Co. No. 1. These 1925 firemen pictured here are (front row from left) Ashby Powell, Robert Hamsher, Cletus Whiteman, Gordon Macomber, Wilbur Lent, Carey Sutfin, Harry Lemen. Back row, Tom Lemen, Robert Campbell, John F. Kramer, Warren Denton, George Kern Jr., William Kuhn. (Wilfred J. Rauber)

Yesteryears — A Look at History

Old Zimmerhackle — Observations, philosophy, humor and advice by Joseph W. Burgess, co-founder and editor of the Breeze before the turn of the century.

There are some things you can't do with the "almighty dollar." It takes two of them.

The more polite a man is on the street, the more bearish he is at home — generally.

About this time the average diary languisheth.

—J.W.B.

1896 — Fred Kuhn is learning dentistry with Dr. F. G. Bedell.

In 1897, the Erie carried 204,305 bicycles.

J. E. Schwan has the contract for building the D&M depot at Sonysa.

—1908—

A party of four Dansville fishermen went to Conesus Lake last Saturday and returned with 67 fish — pickerel and muskellunge — said to have been caught through the ice which now measures four inches in thickness.

At the Buffalo cat show held last week, Mrs. E. B. Cridler's long-haired silver Persian won first prize in the open class and first in the novice. There were 287 cats entered in the show.

—1918—

Don't put frosting on your cake. No patriot does.

A \$15 suit or overcoat for \$11.95 at the Men's Shop here.

Dansville has its first relief from the coal famine when a car load came in over the D&M tracks consigned to McCarthy and Maloney. It was rationed out in lots of 500 pounds by Mayor Stiegler, local fuel administrator, assisted by his deputy, Nicholas Fries.

—1928—

James Quinlan will open a lunch room in the location formerly occupied by F. L. Ripley, the jeweler.

Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray were executed this week for the murder of Albert Snyder, the climax of the famous case which gained so much publicity.

Ray Bressler has purchased the new house which George Fuller is building on North Acres.

—1938—

County Clerk J. Hunter Black issued 800 auto plates at Bateman's Garage here Saturday.

The 10th anniversary of the North Acres Community Club was observed last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Gowdy.

Officials of the Dansville Fish and Game Protective Association have completed arrangements to purchase the McCurdy-Spencer "Log Cabin" property on the Hornell Rd.

With a record of 50 continuous years of operation, Widmer's Wine Cellars of Naples has announced the completion of new storage cellars which add over half a million gallons to the company's storage capacity.

—1948—

W. S. Oberdorf is observing his 87th birthday.

Herbert Kennedy, village clerk, has been named chairman of the March of Dimes and the campaign will mark the 10th anniversary of the organization of the Foundation.

Four Army-Navy training planes, enroute from Canada via New York City, for shipment to the Swedish Air Force, were grounded for several days last week at Dansville Municipal Airport.

A 26 percent increase in the 1947 deer take in Livingston County has been reported by the Conservation Department. There were 403 bucks reported taken, compared with 290 in 1946.

—1958—

The Board of Education has delayed action on the Dansville Teachers Association request that

the elementary school building be named in memory of Ellis B. Hyde, schools superintendent, who died last June.

More than 6,700 pints of blood have been given by donors in the Clara Barton Chapter area since the Red Cross Regional Blood Program was established in January of 1948.

Livonia High edged Dansville 43-40 in a basketball thriller here Friday night.

—1968—

Denae Kinney, firstborn daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Kinney of Perkinsville, became area queen for the New Year when she was the first baby born in Dansville Memorial Hospital this year. She was introduced to the world on Jan. 4.

Dansville's only centenarian, Miss Emmeline Ramsdorf, formerly of 36 Liberty St., died Jan. 7 in Dansville Memorial Hospital after a long illness. She was 103.

Gerald E. Cox of Dansville is serving with a Naval unit in Vietnam. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cox of 220 Main st. and recently completed a Storekeepers School at Newport, R. I.

Paul E. Wamp has been elected president of the Dansville Chamber of Commerce and succeeds Nicholas VanDurne.

Philip Johnson, president of the Community Chest, presided over a meeting last week when plans for the joint Chest and Red Cross

fund campaign in the spring were outlined.

—1978—

The Dansville-Wayland area returned to near-normal routine yesterday in the wake of a wild winter storm which roared in Monday and paralyzed this section for a 36-hour period.

Closing of the sale of the Bernarr Macfadden Castle-on-the-Hill is scheduled for Feb. 9 in the Livingston County Courthouse at Genesee. Purchasers are Henry E. Foote of Canton and William F. Dorne of Cortland.

Noyes Memorial Hospital could "break even" on its \$4.1 million 1978 budget. That's the prediction of Albert Charbonneau, executive vice-president and administrator of the facility.

Ann Organ has been named chairman of the annual Noyes Memorial Hospital Auxiliary dinner to be Monday, Jan. 23, in the Old Madrid Restaurant.

Dansville High's basketball team will have a free Friday tomorrow and time to relish the come-from-behind victory over arch-rival Wayland before a capacity crowd here last week.

Mrs. Ann Mahus of Dansville last week became the first woman to serve justice in Livingston County history. She was elected to that office in the November election and recently completed the state-mandated training school for judges.

Looks Around Our Town

The Bystander

By JIM CONWAY

In paying attention to other newspapers we've learned:

That Millard Fillmore was remembered last week in Buffalo as a man who did great things for that city, even though he may not go down in history as one of the nation's greatest presidents. A wreath from President Reagan was placed at Fillmore's gravesite in Buffalo during a ceremony marking the 188th anniversary of the birth of the 13th president.

He did more than become a big man in Buffalo, because as a boy he lived for a spell in nearby West Sparta. That's why a road was renamed Millard Fillmore Drive in that township after the Genesee Expressway caused a traffic realignment there. But you've heard the story before.

And there's another item that caught our eye in the Rochester morning daily last week which makes us think some editorial writer should take a lesson in area geography. He or she located Trinity Institute and Christ's Church along Hemlock Lake (former St. Michael's Mission House) as "near Mt. Morris."

It may be "near" in a way of speaking but it's a lot closer to Conesus, Livonia, Springwater, Groveland and even Genesee, for that matter. Sometimes they get so busy up north they forget just what is where down here in the south.

Norstar Bank in Dansville is showing the works of artist Rita Taylor. It's part of the Mini-Gallery exhibitor program directed by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

The Genesee woman has taught paper making in the Leisure Learning Program at the college there and in Livonia and has taught stained glass courses in the area.

There are more than 2,000 types of candy in the United States, each person (not me) eats an average of 18 pounds of the sweet stuff each year.

Candy-making for the most part now belongs to the big companies

but such wasn't always the case. Once, many small stores did their own.

We first remember candy-making here when Steve and Jim Dromazos operated the Sugar Bowl. The popular Main Street restaurant was then taken over by two other brothers, Mike and Tony Lima and they continued to make their own candy—and it was a big promotion for them at Christmas and Easter. Many evenings we watched Mike and Tony "create" chocolate treats in many shapes and sizes.

Bike-riding is a popular pastime for many on exercise programs during warm-weather months.

Walter Nilsson must have been in the very best of condition in 1934 when he crossed the country on a unicycle. The unusual journey took him 117 days.

A call has gone out to all ex-WAVES and Navy women along with those who served in the Coast Guard and Marine Corps.

They are invited to attend a meeting of the Finger Lakes Unit of WAVES National Saturday at 1 p.m. in the American Legion Post at Greece. This unit is being formed as a social group, devoted to friendship of women who were in these branches of military service. For more information, phone 865-5994 or 924-2056.

In the course of office conversation, we hear reports of some motorists not "giving way" to emergency vehicles such as ambulances and to highway trucks attempting to sand and plow roads in this area.

We all know you must allow the right-of-way to the emergency vehicles and to take it easy when passing (from either direction) the highway trucks is just good sense. They are out there to make driving conditions as safe as possible.

Exercize sound judgement—and maybe save a life.

While you're waiting for the January thaw, have a good day and a nice forever.

Canal Era Boom

(Continued from Page 1)

by a day's pay while those Dansville fellows fought valiantly for what they considered justice and equality. Soon the invaders retreated to safety at Comminville where barges took them aboard and headed north.

Back at the battle site, Dansville Volunteers cut through the canal bank so water could pour into the side channel. Gradually it deepened as men opened sluice gates to increase a supply from Mill Creek dam. By evening the flow had reached that uptown basin at Spruce and Ocean Streets. At dawn next day the side channel could float a barge.

A sidelight on the canal bank battle is a story unwritten but passed along by some old timers. According to them, three housewives from Franklin Street walked cautiously toward the fracas. Each of them carried a scythe. Apparently they had no intention of joining the scuffle but planned on handing the scythes to their menfolk to use as weapons. This tale further indicates why state workmen skeddaddled when it seemed the Dansville Volunteer ranks would be reinforced by women cutting a swath through enemy ranks with those sharp blades. This version is included here although it cannot be supported by any written or printed record.

That defeat on the canal bank rankled some New York State officials who then chose a battleground where they expected to win—the courtroom. Thirty Dansville citizens were indicted on charges of illegally tampering with state property, (the canal) and for failing to obey an official with authority (the work gang foreman).

These Dansville men were never brought to trial for a very

good reason; the controversial sub-branch became so busy that local canal tolls (payable to the state) nearly doubled from \$8,378.96 to \$16,435.27. Criminal prosecution of these 30 men, who actually were responsible for boosting state revenue, lost what little support it had when first suggested.

It seemed like no time at all before huge piles of lumber nearly hid two saw mills on the sub branch. Nearby stood a blacksmith/harness shop where a man named Daugherty shod horses and repaired or made harnesses worn by those husky steeds that provided towpath power for barge movement; Gilman and Brother made and shipped heavy farm equipment; W. Foot and Co. and J. Ingraham Co., both located on Spruce Street, quickly became Dansville's largest granary and flour mills.

Although these last two enterprises fronted on Spruce Street, the Uptown Basin water lapped their rear stone walls. Barges could moor up tight for loading. Foot had installed a series of chutes through which grain could be poured into barges quickly.

According to records the canal era peaked in 1850 as local tolls reached \$28,930.50. A year later (1851) railroads entered the area transportation picture when Erie R.R. finished a line to Dunkirk. Shippers began to direct goods to the nearest rail station by wagon. Tolls reflect the trend. By 1860, they had dropped to \$2,000 and never again exceeded that figure. New York State closed many branches, including the one to Dansville, in 1878.

Now, more than a century after the curtain dropped on the canal era here, there are still some reminders of those boom years. Rather indistinct depressions, left from channels, can be spotted west of Mill Street and south of

Battle Street. Footings of Mill Creek dam are easily visible.

There are large iron mooring hooks on the rear of the old Spruce Street mill building. They are just about the length of a barge apart.

The brick building, at the corner of West Avenue and Jefferson Street, was the Eagle Hotel, once rated as finest in Western New York. Canalers loved it.

Canal-supported industry gave the name to Mill Street though the structures are now gone. Dock Street, known as Drydock Street when the waterway flourished, is curved just as originally laid out around a basin where barges were built or repaired.

Battle Street is a memorial to that fracas when local men cut into the main channel. For many years there was a Canal Street in Dansville but in post-canal years residents convinced the Village Board to name it West Avenue. Right now there is a Canal Street in Comminville and along side it are some depressions marking the channel course.

Sure enough—that canal era brought people, money, excitement to Dansville.

Groveland Student Helps with Survey

Cynthia Pender of Groveland is one of seven Keuka College students involved in Yates County's efforts to assess its transportation needs.

The seven, all seniors in the college's nursing division, have been assisting with the data collection facet of the project. The survey is being conducted under the county Planning Board. The student participation fulfills a practical application portion of a nursing research class.